

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-12, 14-25, and 32-39 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,602,625 to Okamoto et al. (hereinafter the "Okamoto patent").

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 14, 17-19, 22, 33-36, 38, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the Okamoto patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,987,535 to Knodt (hereinafter the "Knodt patent").

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10-12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23-25 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the Okamoto patent and the Knodt patent as applied to claims 1 and 14, and U.S. Patent No. 5,999,708 to Kajita (hereinafter the "Kajita patent").

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

The rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Okamoto patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

The Okamoto patent shows a system for providing assistance in repairing jams and other minor problems with a copier. The copier includes a color display (102) for providing instructions for clearing the jam (column 21, lines 16-24). When sensors in the copier detect a jam, a graphic is displayed on the device indicating that there is a jam and its location (Figure 14). In this state, operational guidance may be requested by pressing the * key. By pressing the progressive key (A of Figure 13), instructions on accessing various portions of the copier may be selected (column 23, lines 3-27). This allows display of images that assist the user in accessing various components in the copier (Figures 15-39). In certain situations, the copier may sense when a jam has been removed and adjust the guidance accordingly (column 25, lines 19-32). Some of the guidance images

highlight the indicated area of operation using color (column 26, lines 3-9, 25-34, column 27, lines 3-8, 16-29, column 30, lines 48-53, column 31, lines 4-15). No color signal is used to indicate provide any status information on the operation of the copier.

In contrast to the cited prior art, claim 32 includes:

a controller for determining the operational mode of the image forming apparatus and providing a display signal to the display device to change the manner in which said predetermined area of the screen is to be displayed according to the determined operational mode.

In the cited prior art, the manner of display is only modified in the context of providing a graphical display of the copier. There is no predetermined area of the display that is modified to change the manner of display. Further, there is no change in the manner of a display in response to an operation mode of the copier. The cited reference only teaches that changes in the graphics displayed on the display may be changed in response to inputs from the user and from jam sensors. To anticipate, a prior art reference must include every limitation of the claim. MPEP§2131. Therefore, claim 32 is not anticipated by the cited prior art.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Okamoto patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

The rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 9, 14, 17-19, 22, 33-36, 38, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the combination of the Okamoto patent and the Knodt patent and the rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10-12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23-25 and 37 over the combination of the Okamoto patent and the Knodt patent as applied to claims 1 and 14, and the Kajita patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

The Knodt Patent shows a display for a multi-mode device that provides an animated indicator to show device activity. Active connections are darkened to indicate

that activity (column 4, lines 45-59). Knodt does not show or suggest the use of color in a display.

The Kajita Patent describes a system using two way communication from a scanning/copier device and computers connected to the device via a data network. As noted in the rejection "Kajita teaches input means for entering an identification signal for identifying an operator, and the image forming section is capable of sequentially executing a plurality of jobs, and each job is associated with one of the plurality of operation modes." The Kajita patent shows the mode for user inputs (1501 in Figure 15), but does not show or suggest a display of the operational mode of the imaging device. This system allows a user to initiate a print jobs remotely from the computer that contains the information to be printed. Kajita does not show or suggest the use of color in a display.

In contrast to the cited prior art, claim 1 includes:

a controller for determining the operational mode of the image forming apparatus and providing a color display signal to the display device to change the color to be displayed on said predetermined area of the screen according to the determined operational mode.

In the cited prior art, color is provided only on specific components of the guidance function. There is no suggestion to provide any color on the display in response to a determined operational mode. Furthermore, coloring is only provided in the prior art to highlight components in a graphical display of the copier. There is no predetermined area of the display that displays a color based on an operation mode of the copier. A prima facie case for obviousness must include a showing that the combined references show every limitation of the claim. MPEP§2143.03.

The rejection acknowledges that, "Okamoto does not teach color display to the display device is changed according to determine operation mode ...". However, the rejection later states that "Okamoto teaches there are different color values associating with the dynamic data are displayed on the display device ..., it would have been obvious for changing the color on the display device according to the determined operation mode."

However, the rejection cites no teaching or suggestion in any reference to change the color of a predetermined area according to the operation mode. In order to show obviousness, the teaching "there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings." MPEP §2143. The rejection does not provide this motivation or suggestion. Essentially, the rejection states that it's obvious because it's obvious. Therefore, the rejection does not state a prima facie case for obviousness and claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art. Claims 2-12 are dependent upon claim 1. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." §MPEP 2143.03.

Also in contrast to the cited prior art, claim 14 includes:

a controller for determining the operational mode of the image processing device and providing a color display signal to the display device to change the color to be displayed on said predetermined area of the screen according to the determined operational mode.

As noted above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing the color of a predetermined area according to an operational mode. Therefore, claim 14 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art. Claims 15-25 are dependent upon claim 14 and thus include every limitation of claim 14. Therefore, claims 15-25 are also patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Also in contrast to the cited prior art, claim 33 includes:

a controller for, when the identification code is input via the input section, providing a color display signal to the display device to change the color to be displayed on the predetermined area of the screen according to color information stored in the memory device in association with the inputted identification code.

As noted above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing the color displayed in a predetermined area in response to any operational aspect of the device. The cited prior art only shows color highlights of portions of a graphical help facility (Okamoto).

Thus, the combined references do not show or suggest every element of claim 33 and claim 33 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Also in contrast to the cited prior art, claim 34 includes:

a controller for, when the job to be processed by the image processing section is switched to a new job, providing a color display signal to the display device to change the color to be displayed on the predetermined area of the screen according to the new job.

As noted above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing the color displayed in a predetermined area in response to any operational aspect of the device. The cited prior art only shows color highlights of portions of a graphical help facility. Thus, the combined references do not show or suggest every element of claim 34 and claim 34 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Also in contrast to the cited prior art, claim 35 includes:

a controller for, when the operational mode is selected by the selection means, providing a color display signal to the display device to change the color to be displayed on the predetermined area of the screen according to the selected operational mode.

As noted above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing the color displayed in a predetermined area in response to any operational aspect of the device. The cited prior art only shows color highlights of portions of a graphical help facility. Thus, the combined references do not show or suggest every element of claim 35 and claim 35 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art. Claim 36 is dependent upon claim 35 and thus includes every limitation of claim 35. Therefore, the prior art does not show or suggest every element of claim 36 and claim 36 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Also in contrast to the cited prior art, claim 37 includes:

a controller for providing a color display signal to the display device to change the color to be displayed on each area of the screen based on

whether the state of the parameter corresponding to the area is set by the first setting means or the second setting means.

As noted above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing the color displayed in an area of the display device in response to any operational aspect of the device. The cited prior art only shows color highlights of portions of a graphic representation of the copier in a graphical help facility. Thus, the combined references do not show or suggest every element of claim 37 and claim 37 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Also in contrast to the cited prior art, claim 38 includes:

a controller for providing a color display signal to the display device to change the color to be displayed on the predetermined area of the screen based on whether the image processing condition set by the setting means includes a parameter regarding to the basic function or the application function.

As noted above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing the color displayed in a predetermined area in response to any operational aspect of the device. The cited prior art only shows color highlights of portions of a graphical help facility. Thus, the combined references do not show or suggest every element of claim 38 and claim 38 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Also in contrast to the cited prior art, claim 39 includes:

a controller for providing a color display signal to the display device to change the color to be displayed on the predetermined area of the screen according to the program selected by the selection means.

As noted above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing the color displayed in a predetermined area in response to any operational aspect of the device. The cited prior art only shows color highlights of portions of a graphical help facility. Thus, the combined references do not show or suggest every element of claim 39 and claim 39 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 9, 14, 17-19, 22, 33-36, 38, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the Okamoto patent and the Knodt patent, and the rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10-12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23-25 and 37 over the combination of the Okamoto patent and the Knodt patent as applied to claims 1 and 14, and the Kajita patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Response does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

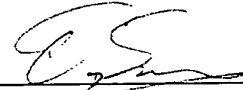
Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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Respectfully submitted,

By: _____



Douglas A. Sorensen
Registration No. 31,570
Attorney for Applicants

DAS:jjk
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3482
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
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